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## Senate

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BEN RAY LUJÁN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, we thank You for Your great blessings. Lord, we are grateful that though the arc of the moral universe is long, it bends toward justice.

Continue to use our lawmakers to permit justice to roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

May our Senators trust Your prevailing providence as they realize that behind the dim unknown, You stand within the shadows, keeping watch above Your own.

Lord, be with all the families affected by the Derek Chauvin trial. Be also with the many brave men and women who faithfully serve You in law enforcement.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, April 21, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BEN RAY LUJÁN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. LUJÁN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 60; that the nomination be confirmed; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate resume legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

#### IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be admiral

Adm. John C. Aquilino

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

### TRIAL OF DEREK CHAUVIN

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, yesterday, a jury of former police officer Derek Chauvin's peers determined that he was guilty of murdering George Floyd, confirming what was plain to the millions of Americans who watched his murder on video—9½ excruciating minutes that documented the senseless and unnecessary loss of one man's life in broad daylight.

Our country was forever changed by the horrendous video of Derek Chauvin killing Mr. Floyd. His searing final words, screaming for air, calling for his mother, are etched in our memory. This guilty verdict serves as an official proclamation of what so many of us have known for nearly a year: George Floyd was murdered by an officer who was sworn to protect and to serve but who, obviously, didn't.

The brutality of George Floyd's murder, yet another in a seemingly endless string of tragedies, sparked a summer of protest unlike any we have seen in American history, elevating a long-building movement for more justice in policing. Americans of every age, color, and creed took to the streets in peaceful protest—from Minneapolis to Maine and Los Angeles to Atlanta, and including in my own home city of New York. A community of global citizens would soon join them in protest. In foreign capitals—from Rome, Paris, and London to Amsterdam, Berlin, and Mexico City—the name George Floyd would echo through the public square. This was not only a fight for justice but a fight against the mistreatment, discrimination, and outright bigotry that Black men and women suffer at the hands of State power, not just here in America but around the globe.

The death of George Floyd provoked such a reaction because folks in those

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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communities knew a George Floyd of their own. Names of friends and colleagues who were tragically killed or suffered the brutal sting of racism sprang to their tongues. They still do.

Philando Castile, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Trayvon Martin, Eric Garner, Daniel Prude, Sandra Bland—each circumstance different, the underlying tragedy much the same. Their names, and countless others, serve as a reminder that a single verdict in a single trial will never be enough.

It wasn't long ago that excessive force by police was never caught on iPhones or body cameras. It was out of sight and often beyond the reach of the law, which gave almost reflexive deference to police officers who were brought to trial, if they were ever brought to trial.

So this was an important event for the American justice system. Not only were the events concerning George Floyd caught on camera, but the offending officer was tried and convicted in a court of law. Let it serve as the proper deterrent—a deterrent that should have existed long ago—to the kind of egregious misconduct that led to George Floyd's death.

However, and most certainly, we should not mistake a guilty verdict in this case as evidence that the persistent problem of police misconduct has been solved or that the divide between law enforcement and so many of the communities they serve has been bridged. It has not.

We must remain diligent in our efforts to bring meaningful change to police departments across the country, to reform practices and training, and the legal protections that grant too great a shield to police officers guilty of misconduct.

We also must remain diligent in striving to root out the racial bias in our society: in our healthcare system, in jobs, in housing, in the economy, in the boardroom and at the ballot box, on our streets, and in our schools.

This goes way beyond party or political faction. Racism strikes at the very core of this country. Justice—true justice—will not come until we finally banish the ancient poison of racism from the American soul.

The Senate will continue that work as we strive to ensure that George Floyd's tragic death will not be in vain. We will not rest until the Senate passes strong legislation to end this systemic bias in law enforcement.

#### NOMINATION OF VANITA GUPTA

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now on a related subject, part of that effort, though modest, is installing committed, experienced, compassionate civil rights leaders in positions of power in the Justice Department, our Nation's top law enforcement Agency. It just so happens that, today, the Senate will vote on the confirmation of Ms. Vanita Gupta to be the next Associate Attorney General.

Not only is Ms. Gupta the first woman of color to ever be nominated to the position, she is the first civil rights attorney ever to be nominated to the position—the third ranking official in the Justice Department. That is shocking, really. We never have had a former civil rights attorney serving in such a position of prominence at the Justice Department. In that sense alone, Ms. Gupta would bring a long overdue perspective to our Federal law enforcement Agency.

Just to give you a sense of Ms. Gupta's commitment to civil rights and racial equity, in her very first case after law school, she won the release of several African Americans who had been wrongly convicted by all-White juries in Texas. Her clients later won a full pardon from Texas Governor Rick Perry.

At a time when our country needs to make strides against racial injustice, how can we not install one of the Nation's top civil rights lawyers at the Department of Justice? How can our colleagues not rise to the occasion—our colleagues on the other side of the aisle—and vote for her? I am so, so troubled by the fact that they are virtually unanimously against such a fine person who is needed so much at this time.

Yes, but, unfortunately, Ms. Gupta might be the first nominee in this Congress where the vote falls entirely down on party lines. I hope it doesn't come to that. The effort to elevate highly qualified civil rights attorneys like Ms. Gupta should be bipartisan.

I urge my colleagues—all of them, and particularly my friends on the other side of the aisle—to vote in favor of Ms. Gupta's nomination today.

#### ENDLESS FRONTIER ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on a different matter here, for nearly a century, America's national security and economic security has been grounded in our scientific and technological superiority, often supported by smart investments by the Federal Government. But in recent years, countries like China have closed the gap with the United States. If we fail to respond, they will overtake us, with drastic consequences for our workers, businesses, allies, and partners around the world.

It is long past time for the United States to make the next wave of investments to fix dangerous weak spots in our economy and preserve our place as the world leader in science and technology, which then leads to millions of good-paying jobs here in this country.

So, today, I am proud to join with my friend the Republican Senator from Indiana, Senator YOUNG, and several of my colleagues from both sides to reintroduce the Endless Frontier Act. It is a big, bold, and bipartisan initiative to propel American science and technology into the 21st century. Let me stress that last point. This bill is bipartisan.

As Senator YOUNG and I have worked on the bill over the past several months, several Senators from both sides have been added as original co-sponsors: six Democrats and six Republicans. That is because there is a bipartisan consensus that the United States must invest in the technologies of the future to outcompete China. Whichever nation develops new technologies first, be they democratic or authoritarian, will set the terms for their use. The stakes for personal privacy and personal liberties, as well as for national security, economic security, and minority rights around the globe, are simply enormous.

So at the center of this legislation is a \$100 billion investment in research, commercialization, and workforce training in the kinds of technology that will play an outsized role in the future—semiconductors, artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and 5G, to name a few.

Another \$10 billion would foster the development of technological hubs around the country. We want to see Silicon Valleys across the country, from my home State of New York and upstate to communities in the South, to the Midwest, to other places that rarely get the attention they merit despite the potential of their workforces, their institutions, and their links to the global economy.

Technological growth in jobs should not be limited to a few centers in America, and this bill attempts to spread it to other communities as well. It will also strengthen the critical supply chains in the United States and with global allies and partners. The Endless Frontier Act is exactly what we need to reinvigorate American science and technology, to promote our national security, and to create the jobs of the future.

I have committed to put a bipartisan, competitive-related bill on the floor of the Senate. The Endless Frontier Act will be a central part of that legislation. We will also push for emergency spending to implement the bipartisan semiconductor manufacturing provisions in last year's Defense bill.

Another potential component, led by Senators Menendez and Risch, is being marked up in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee this week. This is exactly what our Republican colleagues have asked for when it comes to regular order.

We are marking up bipartisan bills in committee and considering bipartisan amendments here on the floor. We have just seen this back process play out on the anti-Asian hate crimes bill this week, and next week we are going to follow it up with a water infrastructure bill that is also thoroughly bipartisan.

Our efforts to cement another century of American economic leadership should be no different—thoroughly bipartisan.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.